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Identical letters dated 5 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter which represents the position of the Syrian Arab Republic on the twelfth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 5 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

1. Syria has consistently provided all kinds of support and assistance to the Lebanese Government in securing its authority and sovereignty over all parts of its territory. Syria has also provided substantial support in building the capacities of the Lebanese Army to carry out its national role of defending its territory against Israeli acts of aggression, because Syria believes that the security and stability of Lebanon have significant positive implications for Syria and the entire region. The December 2009 visit to Syria by Mr. Saad Hariri, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, during which he was received by Mr. Bashar Al-Assad, the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, marked a historic shift in Syrian-Lebanese relations. Discussions were held on all aspects of relations between the fraternal countries and means of enhancing those relations in all fields. We are certain to see sustained efforts in that regard in the coming weeks and months, particularly by the countries' Governments.

2. The Syrian Arab Republic takes exception to the repeated references to the Syrian Arab Republic by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in the report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). That resolution was adopted with a view to halting the mass killing of civilians and the barbaric Israeli attacks on Lebanon during the July war of that year, which were aimed at undermining the stability and security of Lebanon and destroying its infrastructure.

3. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its position that the issue of the delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border referred to in the report is a bilateral matter in which no party has the right to interfere. In that connection, the Syrian Arab Republic would like to reiterate that the real obstacle to border delineation is continued Israeli occupation of the occupied Syrian Golan and the Shab'a Farms, in blatant disregard and violation of not only resolution 1701 (2006), but all other relevant internationally recognized resolutions, and in flagrant defiance of the international community. If the United Nations is committed to the implementation of its resolutions, it should bring pressure to bear on Israel to end its occupation and take the necessary measures in that regard. This issue is one of a number that the Governments of the two countries intend to address in the near future.

4. To make reference to continued Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and call for their cessation without taking effective measures on the ground is an ineffective and hollow gesture. The Security Council must take practical steps to prohibit and put a stop to those violations in accordance with and in implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

5. The Syrian Arab Republic finds it odd that the report insists on including Israeli claims about arms smuggling across the Syrian-Lebanese border. Those claims are fabrications that have been disproved by statements from senior Lebanese officials and reports of the Lebanon Independent Border Assessment Team. Those false claims are designed to provide cover for Israel's daily violations of Lebanese sovereignty, and the continued inclusion of those claims in the report helps Israel to

achieve that aim. It would have been more appropriate for the report to unequivocally condemn Israel for its violations of Lebanese sovereignty, including the employment of large numbers of spies whose aim is to undermine the security of Lebanon. Although the Secretary-General's reports on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) have invariably included the Israeli allegations, they have never given the same consideration to the denials of the Syrian officials with whom the Secretary-General's Special Representative has met.

6. The Palestinian presence in Lebanon is a matter that is governed by the Cairo Agreement signed in 1969 by the Lebanese Republic and the Palestine Liberation Organization. We reiterate that the Palestinian bases on the Syrian-Lebanese border referred to in the report are fully within Lebanese territory. We also reiterate that the primary reason for the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and neighbouring States, including Syria, is Israel's arrogance and continued occupation of Palestinian territory and its refusal to implement internationally recognized resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 194 (III), which guarantees the right of the refugees to return to the lands from which they were expelled.

7. The Syrian Arab Republic affirms it solidarity with the Government and people of Lebanon as they confront Israel's continuing aggression, which constitutes a grave threat to the security and stability of Lebanon and the region. The Secretariat is requested to take a clear position in support of Lebanon. It should not be satisfied with making diffident comments on the Israeli threats against and violations of Lebanon's independence and sovereignty that have not ceased since the adoption of resolution 1701 (2006).

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative